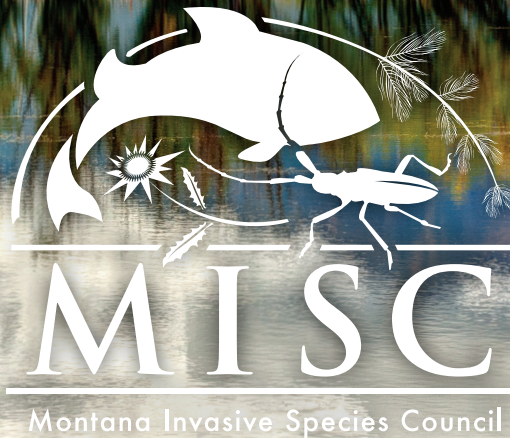


2018
MISC
ANNUAL
REPORT



MONTANA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

In 2018, the Montana Invasive Species Council took major steps in its work to implement the tasks and objectives outlined by stakeholders in the Montana Invasive Species Framework. Much of that work has been driven by the threat of the introduction of invasive mussels. We have worked collaboratively with local, state, tribal and federal partners across the state to develop strong rapid response guidelines and agreements to increase our readiness, led focused discussions on lessons learned from our experience with the mussel detection in 2016, and sponsored the creation of Montana's first economic damages report for aquatic invasive mussels. These projects and more not only increase our readiness for a potential mussel introduction, but also prepare us for other potential invasive threats from encroaching populations of feral hogs or emerald ash borer. 2018 also opened the door for discussions on how we can work more collaboratively and efficiently into the future. The invasive species law review, and subsequent summit, provided opportunities to assess what works best (and what could be improved) in our invasive species programs. We will continue this work into 2019 by inviting stakeholders from across the state to participate in developing recommendations for the creation of an all-taxa invasive species list and the development of an all-taxa invasive species act for the state of Montana. Developing a cohesive and comprehensive invasive species program for our state is a monumental task. But by pulling together, it is a task we are sure to accomplish.



Bryce Christiaens, MISC Chair



The Montana Invasive Species Council is a statewide partnership working to protect Montana's economy, natural resources, and public health through a coordinated approach to combat invasive species.

*MISC's work is guided by the objectives outlined in the **Montana Invasive Species Framework**, which is organized by the five tenants of invasive species management—coordination, prevention, detection, rapid response, and control. Projects are selected based on the highest priorities identified by partners, stakeholders, and the Council. MISC's 2018 accomplishments follow.*

COORDINATING MONTANA INVASIVE SPECIES EFFORTS

In 2018, MISC’s members and coordinator traveled across the state to coordinate invasive species issues, provide outreach at events such as the Montana Stockgrowers Association and Montana Weed Control Association, and participate in meetings to share and learn about local invasive species issues. MISC also hosted a series of listening sessions with stakeholders to share and gather input on the findings from the invasive species law review.



COORDINATION PROJECTS

The **Invasive Species Law Review Compendium** is a systematic compilation of federal, tribal, state, and local laws relevant to the management of all-taxa invasive species in Montana.

The **Missouri River Basin Invasive Mussel Coordination Project** focused on enhancing coordination for early detection and rapid response of invasive mussels in the Missouri River Basin resulting in a partnership agreement among 16 entities.

Participate in monthly calls with invasive species coordinators from western states to **coordinate regional invasive species issues and share information**.

MISC **represented on the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission** to coordinate efforts on protecting the Upper Columbia River Basin from aquatic invasive species.



PREVENTING THE INTRODUCTION OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Provided **education** and **outreach** statewide and regionally through the Invasive Species Bulletin, presentations at conferences, and outreach events across the state and regionally.

Hosted the **2018 Montana Invasive Species Summit**, which included an invasive species education fair.

Co-hosted the Western Governors' Association **Invasive Species and Biosecurity Workshop**.

Produced the **Invasive Mussel Economic Damages Report**, which estimates Montana's economy could see more than \$230 million in annual mitigation costs and lost revenue if mussels were to become established in the state.

Participated in a **National Invasive Species Council podcast** on Montana's mussel response.

Began development of **invasivespecies.mt.gov**, which is scheduled to launch in Spring 2019.

Participated in Northern Ag Broadcasting **Weed Talk Radio** show to talk about MISC's role in the fight against invasive species.

Visit misc.mt.gov for more information and to access MISC reports and publications.



IMPROVING EARLY DETECTION EFFORTS

MISC's first **Science Advisory Panel** was assembled to explore the use of eDNA for the early detection of invasive mussels, which is a regional issue. Recommendations from the panel are being implemented by the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species.

MISC partnered with the Montana Natural Heritage Program to add and manage **Invasive Species Data** to the state's Natural Resource Information Database.

PREPARING FOR INVASIONS

MISC Hosted a **Tree Pest Incident Command System Tabletop Exercise** with partners and stakeholders to practice and prepare for a tree pest invasion such as emerald ash borer.

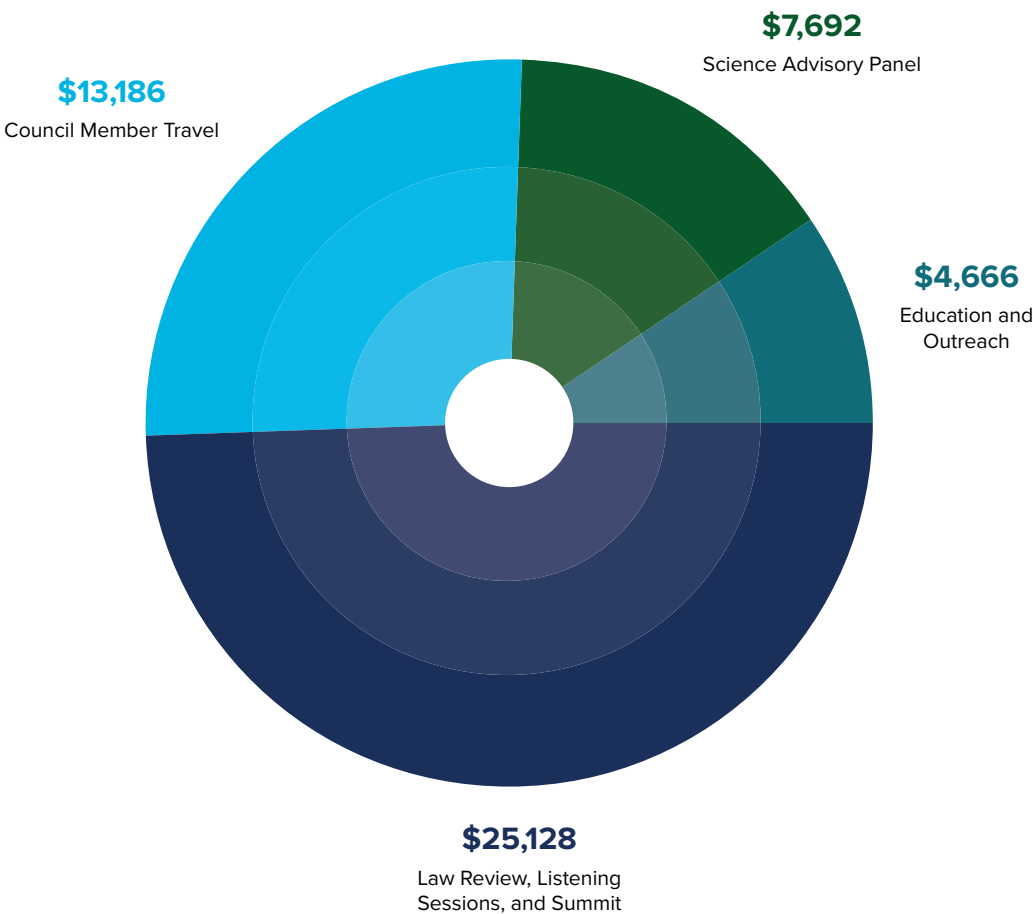
All-Taxa Rapid Response Guidelines were developed to have an on-the-ready template to be customized for any invasive species emergency.

Invasive Mussel Response White Paper shares lessons learned and best practices based on Montana's response.



2018 EXPENDITURES

The 2017 Legislature appropriated \$47,500/year to MISC for the 2019 Biennium.



OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

National Invasive Species Council – MISC was awarded \$60,000 in funding for the Missouri River Invasive Mussel Coordination Project.

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation – The 2017 Legislature provided DNRC with funding for invasive species data management. In 2018, \$61,406 was expended on these efforts. MISC’s data management committee oversees this work.

MISC MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

MISC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bryce Christiaens, Chair

Missoula County Weed District Manager

Steve Wanderaas, Vice Chair

McCone County Conservation District

Tom Woolf, Vice Chair

AIS Bureau Chief, Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Bruce Anderson

Blaine County

David Brooks

Executive Director, Montana Trout Unlimited

Dennis Clairmont

Tribal Council, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Amy Gannon

*Forest Pest Management Program Manager,
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation*

Leigh Greenwood

*Forest Health Program Director,
The Nature Conservancy*

Dennis Longknife

*Climate Change Coordinator, Fort Belknap
Indian Community*

Jane Mangold

Noxious Weed Specialist, MSU-Extension

Kim Mangold

Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture

Mike Miller

Noxious Weed Coordinator, Department of Transportation

Dona Rutherford

Blackfeet Nation Environmental Office

Laurie Shafter

*Water Quality Specialist, Fort Peck Assiniboine
& Sioux Tribes*

Jan Stoddard

*Industry Services & Outreach Bureau Chief,
Department of Commerce*

Steve Tyrrel

Integrated Agriculture Services, Vice President/CEO

Alec Underwood

Western Montana Field Rep, Montana Wildlife Federation

Andy Welch

Hydropower Compliance Specialist, Northwestern Energy

Daryl Wright II

Tribal Council, Chippewa Cree Tribe

Gail Whiteman

Conservation Specialist, Crow Tribe of Indians

FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNERS

Gary Adams

*U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service*

Jeff Baumberger

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Steve Bekedam

Yellowstone National Park

Patricia Gilbert

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Lynn Hurst

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Monica Pokorny

U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Carmela Romerio

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Bill Sparklin

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Chip Weber

U.S. Forest Service

COUNCIL COORDINATOR

Stephanie Hester

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

MISC COMMITTEES

The Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC) hosts several committees and working groups to further its work and to provide a central point for statewide coordination of invasive species issues or functions. MISC committees are not decision-making bodies but rather provide specific scientific and technical expertise to aid the full council in making decisions.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Chair: Kate Wilson

Overview: MISC's E&O Committee was established to coordinate and promote invasive species information between natural resource managers, scientists, educators, policymakers, stakeholders, and the public.



DATA MANAGEMENT

Chair: Jed Little

Overview: The committee facilitates the development, implementation, and enhancement of data sharing for invasive species.



TREE PEST

Chair: Vacant

Overview: Serves primarily as an information sharing body between multiple parties that have a role in tree pest issues throughout Montana.



FIREWOOD

Chair: Amy Gannon

Overview: Pathway-based committee that focuses on preventing the spread of invasive species through the movement of firewood.



INVASIVE WOODY TREES

Chair: Jasmine Reimer

Overview: A statewide network to coordinate and share research and best practices for invasive woody tree species such as salt cedar and Russian olive.

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